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United States Patent [19]**Manser et al.**[11] **Patent Number:** **5,646,817**[45] **Date of Patent:** ***Jul. 8, 1997**[54] **ADJUSTABLE KEYBOARD**

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[*] Notice: The term of this patent shall not extend beyond the expiration date of Pat. No. 5,596,480.

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Related U.S. Application Data

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[51] **Int. Cl.⁶** **G06F 1/16**

[52] **U.S. Cl.** **361/680; 400/682**

[58] **Field of Search** 345/168, 169; 364/708.1; 400/472, 489, 682, 691-693; 341/22; 312/223.2; 235/145 R; 361/680

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[57] **ABSTRACT**

An adjustable keyboard assembly for a portable personal computer includes a keyboard, split along a predetermined breakline defining two keyboard sections, removable from the portable personal computer. In order to facilitate angular positioning of the keyboard sections as well as removal of the keyboard sections from the portable personal computer housing, the keyboard sections are mechanically coupled together, for example, with a hinge at one end of the breakline. Such a configuration enables the relative angular positions of the keyboard sections to be custom positioned by the individual user for maximum adjustability in accordance with the user's preference both on and removed from the portable personal computer housing. Unlike other known keyboards, the keyboard, in accordance with the present invention, is formed in standard QWERTY format so as not to require retraining of users.

21 Claims, 5 Drawing Sheets